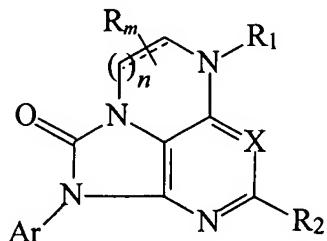


## CLAIMS

1. A compound having the following structure:



and stereoisomers and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof,

wherein:

*n* is 1 or 2;

*m* is 0, 1, 2 or 3;

X is N or CR';

R is an optional substituent which, at each occurrence, is independently C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl, C<sub>3-6</sub>alkenyl C<sub>1-6</sub>alkylideny or C<sub>1-6</sub>alkylAr;

R<sub>1</sub> is -C(H)<sub>0,1</sub>(R<sub>3</sub>)(R<sub>4</sub>);

R<sub>2</sub> is hydrogen or C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl;

R<sub>3</sub> is hydrogen, keto, C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl, mono- or di(C<sub>3-6</sub>cycloalkyl)methyl, C<sub>3-6</sub>cycloalkyl, C<sub>3-6</sub>alkenyl, hydroxyC<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl, C<sub>1-6</sub>alkylcarbonyloxyC<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl, or C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyloxyC<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl, and

R<sub>4</sub> is hydrogen, Ar<sup>1</sup>, C<sub>1-6</sub>alkylAr<sup>1</sup>, OAr<sup>1</sup>, C<sub>1-8</sub>alkyl, C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyloxy, C<sub>3-6</sub>cycloalkyl, mono- or di(C<sub>3-6</sub>cycloalkyl)methyl, C<sub>3-6</sub>alkenyl, C<sub>3-6</sub>alkynyl, C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyloxyC<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl, C<sub>1-6</sub>alkoxyAr<sup>1</sup>, hydroxyC<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl, thierylC<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl, furanylC<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl, C<sub>1-6</sub>alkylthioC<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl, morpholinyl, mono- or di(C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl)aminoC<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl, amino, (C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl)amino, di(C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl)amino, (C<sub>1-6</sub>alkylAr<sup>1</sup>)amino, (C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl)(Ar<sup>1</sup>)amino, C<sub>1-6</sub>alkylcarbonylC<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl, C<sub>1-6</sub>alkylcarbonyloxyC<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl, sulfonyl(C<sub>1-8</sub>alkyl), C(=O)C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl, C<sub>1-8</sub>alkyl substituted with phthalimide, Ar<sup>1</sup>, OAr<sup>1</sup>, NHAr<sup>1</sup>, C(=O)Ar<sup>1</sup>, C(=O)NAr<sup>1</sup> or -C(=O)NH<sub>2</sub>, or a radical of the formula -(C<sub>1-6</sub>alkanediyl)-Y-(CO)<sub>0,1</sub>-Ar<sup>1</sup> where Y is O, NH or a direct bond, or

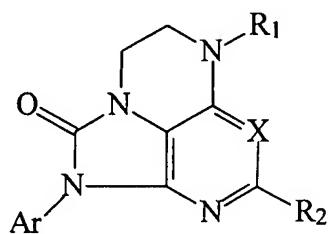
$R_3$  and  $R_4$  taken together with the carbon atom to which they are attached form a  $C_{5-8}$ cycloalkyl, a  $C_{5-8}$ cycloalkenyl, a  $C_{3-12}$ heterocycle, phenyl, naphthyl, or a  $C_{5-8}$ cycloalkyl fused to  $Ar^1$ , each of which being optionally substituted with one or more substituents independently selected from  $C_{1-6}$ alkyl;

$Ar$  is phenyl, naphthyl or an aromatic  $C_{3-12}$ heterocycle, each being optionally substituted with 1, 2 or 3 substituents independently selected from halo,  $C_{1-6}$ alkyl, trifluoromethyl, O(trifluoromethyl), hydroxy, cyano,  $C_{1-6}$ alkyloxy, phenoxy, benzoxy,  $C_{1-6}$ alkylthio, nitro, amino, mono- or di( $C_{1-6}$ alkyl)amino, ( $C_{1-6}$ alkyl)( $C_{1-6}$ alkanoyl)amino, or piperidinyl, or wherein two substituents taken together are a  $C_{1-6}$ alkylidinyl or a  $C_{1-6}$ alkylidenyl having one, two or three carbon atoms replaced with a heteroatom individually selected from oxygen, nitrogen or and sulfur; and

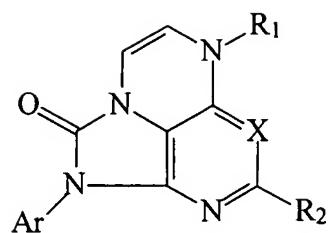
$Ar^1$  is phenyl, naphthyl or an aromatic  $C_{3-12}$ heterocycle, each of which being optionally substituted with 1, 2 or 3 substituents independently selected from halo,  $C_{1-6}$ alkyl,  $C_{1-6}$ alkyloxy, di( $C_{1-6}$ alkyl)amino, di( $C_{1-6}$ alkyl)amino $C_{1-6}$ alkyl, trifluoromethyl sulfonyl ( $C_{1-6}$ alkyl) and  $C_{1-6}$ alkyl substituted with morpholinyl.

2. The compound of claim 1 wherein  $n$  is 1.

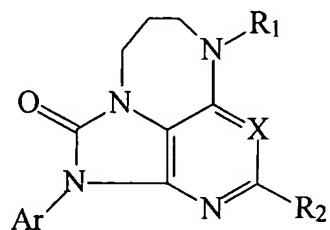
3. The compound of claim 2 having the structure



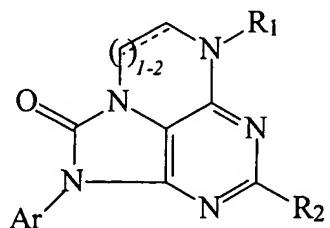
4. The compound of claim 2 having the structure



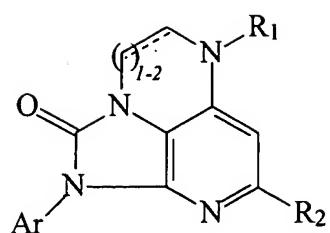
5. The compound of claim 1 wherein *n* is 2.
6. The compound of claim 5 having the structure



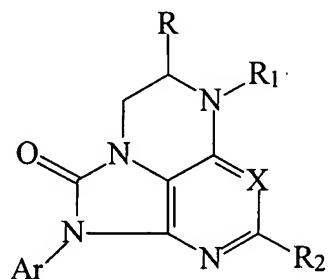
7. The compound of claim 1 wherein *m* is 0.
8. The compound of claim 7 having the structure:



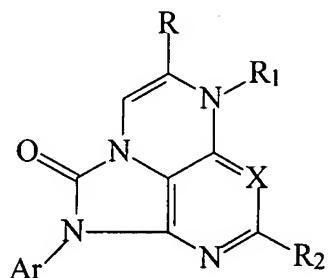
9. The compound of claim 7 having the structure:



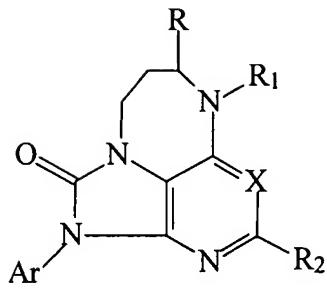
10. The compound of claim 1 wherein  $m$  is 1.
11. The compound of claim 10 having the structure:



12. The compound of claim 10 having the structure:



13. The compound of claim 10 having the structure:



14. The compound of claim 1 wherein X is CR' and R' is hydrogen.
15. The compound of claim 1 wherein X is N.
16. The compound of claim 1 wherein R is C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl.
17. The compound of claim 1 wherein R is methyl or ethyl.
18. The compound of claim 1 wherein R is ethyl.
19. The compound of claim 1 wherein Ar is 2,4,6-trimethylphenyl, 2-chloro-4-methylphenyl, 2-chloro-4-methoxyphenyl, 2-bromo-4-methylphenyl, 2-methyl-4-chlorophenyl, 2-methyl-4-bromophenyl, 2-bromo-4-isopropylphenyl, 2,4-dichlorophenyl, 2,6-dimethyl-4-bromophenyl, 4-chlorophenyl, 2,4-dimethoxyphenyl, 2,4-dimethylphenyl, 2-methoxyphenyl, 3-methoxyphenyl, 4-methoxyphenyl, 2-methyl-4-methoxyphenyl, 3,4-dimethoxyphenyl, 3,5-dimethoxyphenyl, 4-trifluoromethylphenyl, 2,4,6-trifluorophenyl, 2-methyl-4-N(ethyl)<sub>2</sub>phenyl, 2-bromo-4-(OCF<sub>3</sub>)phenyl, 4-dimethylamino-2-methylpyridin-3-yl, 4-dimethylamino-6-methylpyridin-3-yl, 4-dimethylamino-pyridin-3-yl, 4-N(CH<sub>3</sub>)(Ac)phenyl, 5-methylisoxazol-3-yl, 3,4-methylenedioxyphenyl or 3,4-ethylenedioxyphenyl.

20. The compound of claim 1 wherein Ar is 2,4,6-trimethylphenyl, 2-methyl-4-chlorophenyl, 2-chloro-4-methylphenyl, 2,4-dichlorophenyl, 2,6-dimethyl-4-bromophenyl, 2-bromo-4-methylphenyl, 4-methoxyphenyl or 4-chlorophenyl.

21. The method of claim 1 wherein R<sub>1</sub> is methyl, ethyl, n-propyl, iso-propyl, n-butyl, iso-butyl, tert-butyl, n-pentyl, iso-pentyl, neo-pentyl, -CH(ethyl)<sub>2</sub>, -CH(n-propyl)<sub>2</sub>, -CH(n-butyl)<sub>2</sub>, -CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>OCH<sub>3</sub>, -CH(methyl)(CH<sub>2</sub>OCH<sub>3</sub>), -CH(ethyl)(CH<sub>2</sub>OCH<sub>3</sub>), -CH(n-propyl)(CH<sub>2</sub>OCH<sub>3</sub>), -CH(n-butyl)(CH<sub>2</sub>OCH<sub>3</sub>), -CH(tert-butyl)(CH<sub>2</sub>OCH<sub>3</sub>), -CH(CH<sub>2</sub>OCH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>, -CH(benzyl)(CH<sub>2</sub>OCH<sub>3</sub>), -CH(4-chlorobenzyl)(CH<sub>2</sub>OCH<sub>3</sub>), -CH(CH<sub>2</sub>OCH<sub>3</sub>)(CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>SCH<sub>3</sub>), -CH(ethyl)(CH<sub>2</sub>Obenzyl), -CHC≡CH, -CH(methyl)(ethyl), -CH(methyl)(n-propyl), -CH(methyl)(n-butyl), -CH(methyl)(n-pentyl), -CH(methyl)(CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>), -CH(ethyl)(n-propyl), -CH(ethyl)(n-butyl), -CH(ethyl)(n-pentyl), ), -CH(n-propyl)(n-butyl), -CH(n-propyl)(n-pentyl), cyclopropyl, cyclobutyl, cyclohexyl, 2-methylcyclohexyl, 3-methylcyclohexyl, 1,2,3,4-tetrahydronaphthyl (1 and 2), benzyl, 2-chlorobenzyl, -CH(methyl)(benzyl), -CH(ethyl)(benzyl), -CH(n-propyl)(benzyl), -CH(n-butyl)(benzyl), -CH<sub>2</sub>(cyclopropyl), -CH<sub>2</sub>(cyclobutyl), -CH<sub>2</sub>CH(methyl)CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>, -CH<sub>2</sub>CH(ethyl)CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>, -CH<sub>2</sub>C(methyl)<sub>3</sub>, -CH<sub>2</sub>C≡CH, -CH<sub>2</sub>C(=O)ethyl, -C(=O)cyclopropyl, -C(=O)NHbenzyl, -C(=O)methyl, -C(=O)benzyl, -C(=O)phenyl, -C(=O)ethyl, -C(=O)CH<sub>2</sub>C(=O)Oethyl, -C(=O)CH(phenyl)ethyl, C(=O)pyridyl, -C(=O)(4-N,N-dimethylamino)phenyl, -C(=O)CH<sub>2</sub>Omethyl, -C(=O)CH(ethyl)<sub>2</sub>, -C(=O)n-butyl, -C(=O)CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>(methyl)<sub>2</sub>, -C(=O)n-propyl, -C(=O)CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>phenyl, -CH<sub>2</sub>pyridyl, -CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>NHphenyl, -CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>C(=O)Oethyl, -CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>Oethyl, -CH<sub>2</sub>CH(methyl)<sub>2</sub>, -CH<sub>2</sub>C(=O)Oethyl, -CH<sub>2</sub>C(=O)pyrrohdinophenyl, -CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>Ophenyl, -CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>-N-phthalimide, -CH<sub>2</sub>C(=O)Ot-butyl, -CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH(methyl)<sub>2</sub>, -CH<sub>2</sub>C(=O)NH<sub>2</sub>, -CH<sub>2</sub>-4-(SO<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>)phenyl, -CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>pyrolyl and benzyl.

22. The compound of claim 1 wherein R<sub>1</sub> is -CH(ethyl)<sub>2</sub>, -CH(n-propyl)<sub>2</sub>, -CH(ethyl)(n-butyl) or -CH(ethyl)(n-pentyl).

23. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound of claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

24. A method for treating a disorder manifesting hypersecretion of CRF in a warm-blooded animal in need thereof, comprising administering to the animal an effective amount of the pharmaceutical composition of claim 23.

25. The method of claim 24 wherein the disorder is stroke.

26. The method of claim 24 wherein the disorder is depression, anxiety disorder, panic disorder, obsessive-compulsive disorder, abnormal aggression, unstable angina, reactive hypertension, anorexia nervosa, bulimia, irritable bowel syndrome, stress-induced immune suppression, inflammation, Cushing's disease, substance abuse or withdrawal, infantile spasms, or epilepsy.